

SPOKE LIFE MESA

A publication by the City of Mesa's Bicycle & Pedestrian Program



PROGRAM UPDATE

Since March, we have all had to adjust to these strange times. All events like CycloMesa and Winter Fest, school education programs, and library classes, were cancelled. Finally, as staff return to the office, we are brainstorming new programming ideas, working on creating videos of our presentations to share, and trying to navigate virtual teaching. Check out some of the findings from the 2019 Annual Bicycle and Pedestrian Survey on p. 5-6. We hope in the coming months we are able to continue riding forward.



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REPORT FROM YOUR RIDE

by Amy J McConnell



Photo credit: Brenton Booth

Biking through the City allows riders to see Mesa through a unique perspective drivers don't get. You're up-close and get the option to interact with your surrounding area as you wheel through a neighborhood, bike path or road.

The City of Mesa recently launched CityLink, a smartphone app that helps keep our city clean and safe, including striving to make the City graffiti-free by collecting reports of vandalism from citizens. This app allows you to report other issues such as debris in the roadway, streetlight outages, and potholes.

How does this impact our biking community? When rolling through the city on two-wheels, especially across the 78-miles of bike paths, we are asking you to report any issues or graffiti you see.

It's easy to report; The app guides users step-by-step to take a photo of the graffiti and submit it. Using the smartphone's built-in GPS, the app automatically collects the location of the request to enable Mesa's graffiti abatement team to be dispatched to the exact location. Once reported, graffiti will be removed within 24 hours on City business days; A standby dispatch crew is on-call during weekends and holidays for offensive graffiti to be removed as quickly as possible.

Going too fast on your ride to slow down and take a picture? You may also call the graffiti hotline at (480) 644-3083 to make a report. To download the app, search Mesa CityLink on your mobile device and download from the App Store or Google Play.

REGISTER YOUR BICYCLE

Mesa Police Department offers bicycle registration in the event your bicycle was stolen and recovered. This allows your bicycle to be able to be returned to you much easier if you have all the necessary information to provide to Police in order to get it back. You can visit Mesa Police Department's website to fill out the [online form](#) or drop it off at any Mesa Police station.

Your Bike Was Just STOLEN!

Do You Know Your Serial Number?

Your **Bicycle Serial Number** is located on the bottom of the pedal casing. If your bike does not have one, engrave your Driver's License number in this location and record that number on the registration card below.



NEED YOUR BIKE?

- ~ PHOTOGRAPH IT
- ~ REGISTER IT
- ~ LOCK IT
- ~ WEAR A HELMET
- ~ OBEY TRAFFIC LAWS



If you heard the words, "Your Bike Was Just **STOLEN**," do you have all of the necessary information to provide to Police in order to get it back? **Fill out this card, Submit it On-Line, or Print and Mail it to or Drop it off at any Mesa Police station to register your bike.** You can also create your own Free account for personal property inventory at Foundrop: www.Foundrop.com
Note: A Foundrop Account Inventory does not register your property with the Mesa Police Department.

Bicycle Registration ~ Be sure to print a copy for your records before submitting. * Indicates REQUIRED Field

*Name: _____

*Phone: (____) _____ - _____ *Age: ____ *Sex: M ☐ F ☐

*Bike Make: _____ Fenders? Yes ☐ No ☐

*Bike Model: _____

*Bike Color(s): _____ Bike Size: _____

*Serial #: _____

If No Serial # Found on Bike, Complete Next Line:

Owner Applied #: _____ Driver's Lic.? Yes ☐ No ☐ State: _____

Notes: _____

Date Submitted: ____/____/20____ ☐ Mailed In ☐ Dropped Off ☐ Submitted On-Line

* ☐ By checking this box you are attesting to the truthfulness of the information contained in the Registration Form and confirm that you understand that false reporting to the Police is a crime.

This Section for Mesa Police Department Use Only: RMS Bike ID# _____
Received ____/____/20____ Entered By: _____ Badge# _____

SUBMIT FORM

New 3/19

VISIT MESA.AZ.GOV/BIKEPED

SAFETY FIRST

by Becca Heaton

Too often cyclists — especially kids — are wearing their helmets the wrong way.

You've probably seen it: the helmet is tilted so far back on their head that it is resting on their neck instead of on top of their head. Or, gasp, someone wearing their helmet backwards. Yep, it happens. A properly fitted helmet is essential to prevent head injuries resulting from a bike crash.

Here's how:

Eyes - The helmet should sit level on your head and rest low on the forehead, one to two finger widths above the eyebrow. You should be able to see the very edge of your helmet looking up past your eyebrows.

Mouth - The buckled chinstrap needs to be loose enough that you can breathe easily. There should be enough room so you can insert a finger between the buckle and chin, but tight enough that if you open your mouth, you can feel the helmet pull down on top.

Ears - The straps should be even and form a "Y" under the earlobe (where the earlobe meets the head) and should be snug against your head. Straps and buckles can loosen up over time, so check them frequently.

These tips come courtesy of Pima County and the City of Tucson.



Be Seen, Be Safe



Cyclists must:

- Have a light on the front of their bike and a reflector on the back.
- Ride WITH traffic, not against.

Remember:

- Always wear a helmet.
- Wear bright & reflective clothing to make yourself more visible.
- Follow traffic laws & ride in a predictable manner.
- Use hand signals so people know where you are going.

It's the law!



BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN
PROGRAM

www.mesaaz.gov/bikeped

HALLOWEEN

SAFETY TIPS

- Plan costumes that are bright and reflective
- Carry a flashlight
- Always accompany young children and plan a route in advance
- Stay on the well-lit streets using the sidewalk or far edge of the roadway facing traffic
- Always look both ways for traffic before crossing the street
- Always walk, never run
- Drivers be extra cautious during trick or treat time.
- Drive slowly and pay attention.



VISIT MESA.AZ.GOV/BIKEPED

RESULTS ARE IN

The City of Mesa is constantly increasing its efforts to better serve the community with modern innovation in mind. Mesa's Bicycle and Pedestrian Program provides many services and educational opportunities for residents. The goal is to increase the ridership and activity throughout the City so that residents may benefit from this affordable and healthy forms of transportation. Annually, the Bicycle and Pedestrian Program releases a survey to gauge the activity and overall satisfaction of the Program and facilities offered, so that it may improve and support a beneficial, as well as a desirable environment. The survey was conducted over the months of December 2019 through February 2020 with 364 respondents.

Key Findings:

- Most cyclists wear a helmet and ride for recreation and fitness benefits.
- Cyclists report that lack of bike lanes and vehicles not sharing the roadway are the top issues encountered while riding.
- 76% of respondents would like to see more off-street pathways.
- 70% of cyclists prefer to ride on off-street pathways.
- Two-thirds of those surveyed have not attended a Bicycle & Pedestrian event or free educational class.

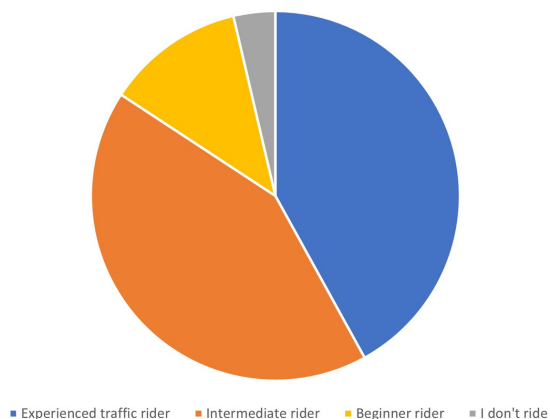
Evaluating the Facts:

Boosting Confidence: One of the program's main goals is to boost the overall confidence of cycling throughout the City. 84% of respondents were equally split between experienced traffic riders and intermediate cyclists. Only 12% considered themselves to be beginner riders. Overall, those surveyed are quite confident regarding bicycling.

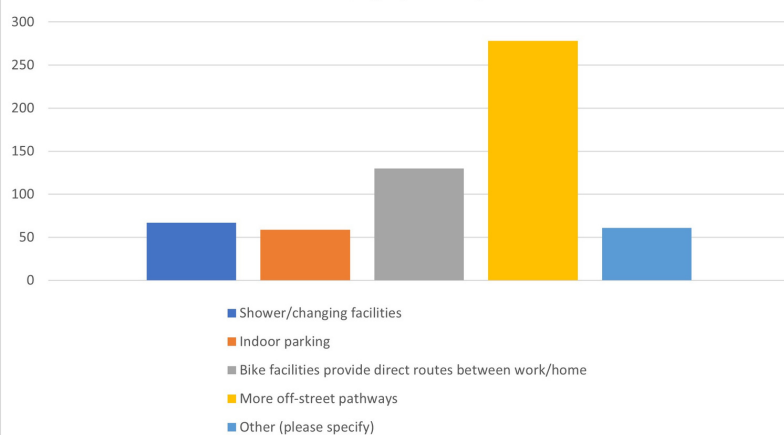
Reasons to Ride: There are numerous reasons people choose to ride their bicycles. 87% of Mesa's riders are recreational cyclists while 24% report also using their bike for commuting or running errands. Many residents are discovering the benefits from riding by utilizing bicycling as a mechanism to exercise, save on costs for transportation, and preserve the environment.

Where They Ride: Most survey respondents feel most comfortable riding on Mesa's off-street pathways. 23% are willing to ride in bike lanes and 7% choose to ride on the sidewalk only.

What best describes your confidence level as cyclist?

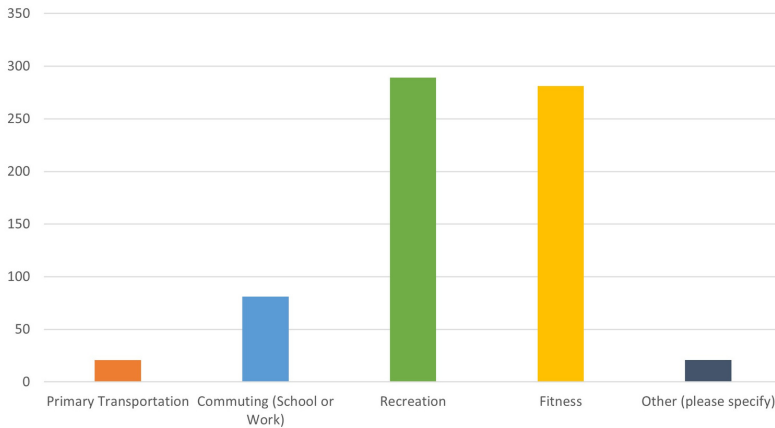


What would encourage you to cycle more often?

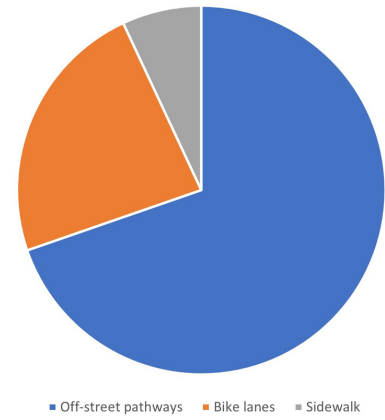


RESULTS ARE IN

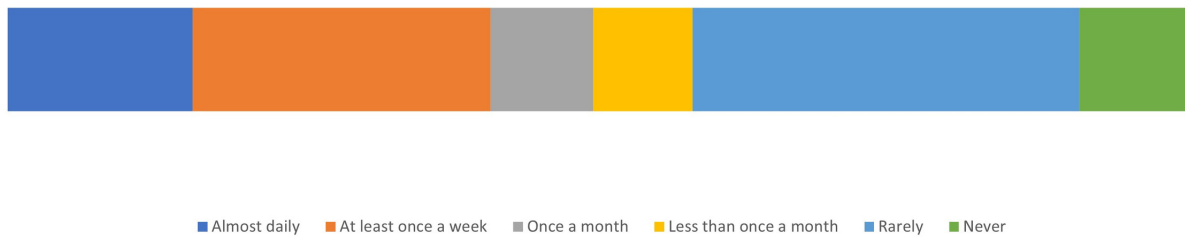
Why do you ride?



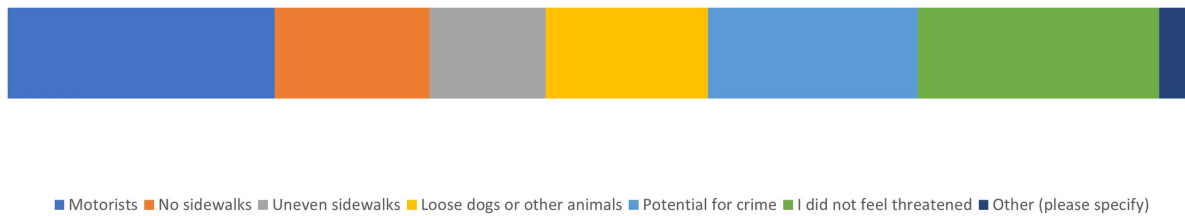
Where do you feel most comfortable riding your bike?



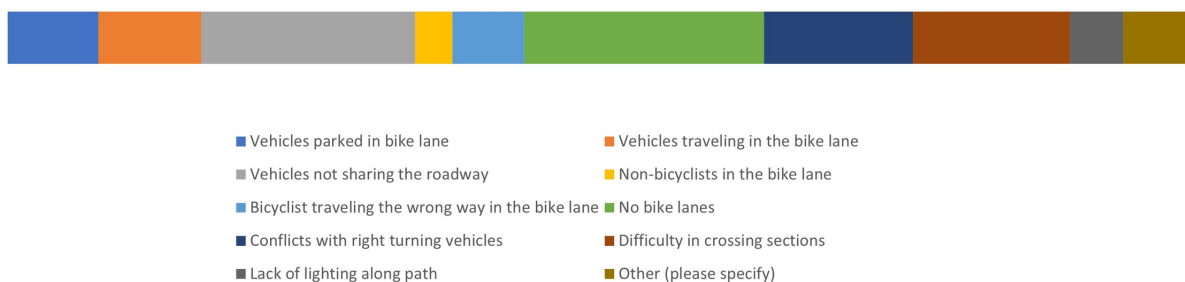
On average, how often do you walk instead of traveling by other modes?



When you walk do you feel threatened for your personal safety because of any of the following?

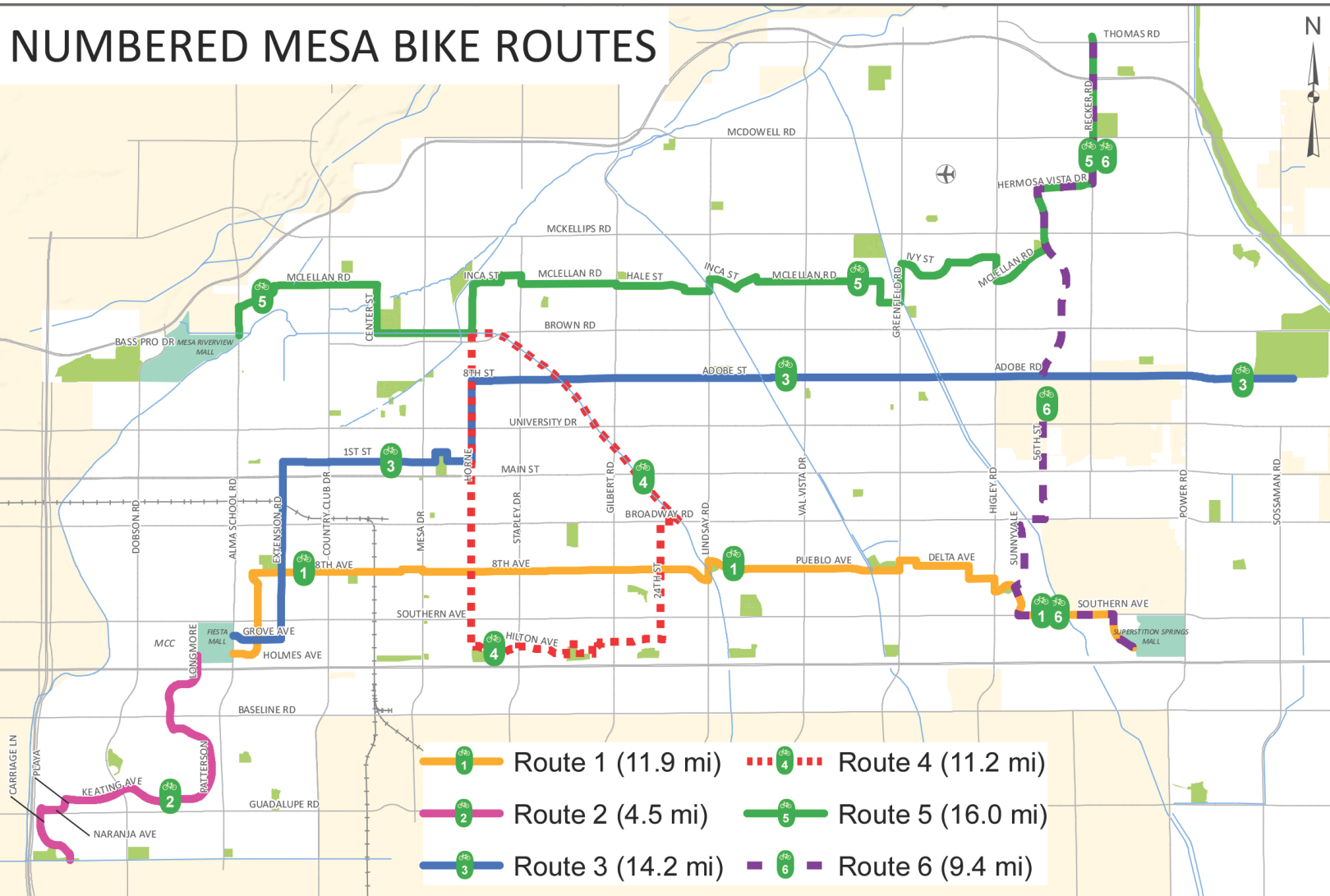


Choose the top 3 issues you encounter regularly when cycling?



RIDE OUR FEATURED ROUTES

NUMBERED MESA BIKE ROUTES



Recent trends continue to highlight a strong desire for communities to be bike-friendly, and the City of Mesa's Transportation Department Bike & Pedestrian Program is continuously working on creating enhanced pedestrian pathways to provide safe connections for residents to travel through the city on two-wheels.

Stay up to date with current projects and announcements!

Sign up for e-notifications on Mesa's Bike & Pedestrian Program at mesaaz.gov/bikeped or follow us on Facebook: [MesaBikePedProgram](https://www.facebook.com/MesaBikePedProgram)

VISIT [MESAAZ.GOV/BIKEPED](https://mesaaz.gov/bikeped)